

CLAIMS

1. A surgical warming blanket arranged for use during surgery on a patient and comprising at least two layers capable of forming a hollow air space between them for receiving warmed air from a heating unit, the two layers and air space being arranged in operation to form a substantially tubular arrangement at least partially surrounding a patient receiving space, whereby when warm air is passed into the air space it is delivered to the patient receiving space via the blanket, to maintain warm air within the patient receiving space, the patient receiving space receiving the patients body and allowing access to the patients body for surgery without disturbing the blanket.
2. A surgical warming blanket in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the tubular arrangement surrounds the patient receiving space on three sides.
3. A surgical warming blanket in accordance with Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein one of the two layers of the blanket has a portion of its surface formed of pervious material so that the warmed air is delivered to the patient receiving space via the pervious material.
4. A surgical warming blanket in accordance with Claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the surface of the blanket is arranged to be fluid repellent, so that liquid contamination is repelled.
5. A surgical warming blanket in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, being sized and shaped so that the patient receiving space is arranged to receive an animal.
6. A surgical warming blanket in accordance with Claim 5, wherein the blanket is shaped and sized so that the patient

receiving space is arranged to receive a large animal, such as a large dog.

7. A surgical warming blanket in accordance with any one of Claims 1 to 4, the blanket being sized and shaped so that the patient receiving space can receive a human adult.

8. A heating unit for a patient warming system, the heating unit including a delivery port for delivering warmed air to a patient warming blanket, and a feedback means for determining whether a patient warming blanket is attached and responsive to a determination that the patient warming blanket is not attached, to disable delivery of warmed air via the port.

9. A heating unit in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the feedback means includes a pressure sensor for sensing back pressure on the air delivery port.

10. A heating unit in accordance with Claims 8 or 9, the heating unit being arranged to heat the air to a range of temperatures.

11. A heating unit in accordance with Claim 10, being arranged to heat air up to 46°C.

12. A heating system comprising a patient warming blanket in accordance with any one of the Claims 1 to 7 and a heating unit in accordance with any one of Claims 8 to 11.

13. A method of warming a patient during surgery, comprising the steps of receiving the patient within a patient receiving space within which the patients body is accessible for surgery, and passing warmed air into the patient receiving space to keep the patient warm.

14. A method in accordance with Claim 13, wherein a surgical warming blanket in accordance with any one of Claims 1 to 8 is utilised to form the patient receiving space and deliver the warmed air thereto.